[12th August 1929

Excise

Inspection of liquor shops by the Members of the Excise Licensing Board, etc.

*361 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Prohibition League, Calicut, has addressed the Government requesting them that the members of the Excise Licensing Board and the advisory committees should be permitted to inspect the liquor shops within their jurisdiction with a view to see that the conditions of licence with special reference to sanitation, hours of sale, etc., are followed;

(*b*) whether the Government have declined to consider the request favourably; and

(*c*) whether he will be pleased to place on the table of the House the letter of the League and the reply of the Government thereon?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The papers are laid on the table.[a]

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON:—"May I know, with reference to clause (*b*), why the Government declined to consider the request favourably of the Calicut Prohibition League with regard to the inspection of the liquor shops with special reference to the sanitary conditions of those shops?"

The hon. Mr. S MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"In the last but one sentence of the appendix, it is stated 'It will be an advantage however, if any member of the Licensing Board or Advisory Committee will bring to the notice of the Revenue or Excise Officers instances in which the sanitation of a shop is found to be defective or the prescribed hours of sale are disregarded.' So if any defect is pointed out, it will be alright. But with regard to inspection being obligatory on the members of the Licensing Board, the Government have the apprehension that it will spoil the whole case as the licensees may not like their shops to be inspected too often. That is the reason why the Government did not think it necessary."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know whether the Inspector, Sub-Inspector and others spoken of in the answer are not interested in the income of the department?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"What is talked of in the answer is the sanitation of the shops and nothing else."

Extension of the hour of closure of liquor shops from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

*362 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the case of arrack shops and foreign liquor taverns in Madras City, the hour of closure has been extended from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., and if so what reasons led the Government to adopt this course; and

(*b*) what the reasons are for closing the arrack and toddy shops in Tuticorin town and toddy shops in Mangalore town at 9 p.m. while 8 p.m. is the general hour of closure in all other places in the Presidency?

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[a] Printed as Appendix III at page 678 infra.